



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Tony Rivero (R-21)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Rivero to Welcome Ambassadors from Singapore and Tunisia to Arizona Legislature

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Tony Rivero (R-21), chair of the House Committee on State and International Affairs, will welcome Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States and Fayçal Gouia, Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States to the Arizona Legislature in the coming weeks.

Ashok Kumar Mirpuri was first appointed as Singapore's Ambassador to the United States in 2012 and previously served as Ambassador to Indonesia, High Commissioner to Malaysia, and High Commissioner to Australia.

Fayçal Gouia was accepted as Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States in 2015, after serving as a longtime member of the country's foreign service. Prior to his role as Ambassador, Gouia served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and head of the Americas Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"I am pleased to welcome Ambassadors Ashok Kumar Mirpuri and Fayçal Gouia to the Arizona Legislature to augment Singapore and Tunisia's partnership with the United States and Arizona," said Representative Rivero. **"By continuing to foster relationships with ambassadors from other nations, we can develop new solutions to strengthen trade, the economy, and education worldwide."**

"I am thrilled to work alongside Representative Rivero to welcome Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri and Ambassador Fayçal Gouia to Arizona," said Representative Blackman (R-6), vice chair of the House Committee on State and International Affairs. **"When Arizona works in partnership with other nations, it strengthens our position in the global economy."**

"I am proud to welcome Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri and Ambassador Fayçal Gouia to Arizona and look forward to hearing their perspectives on strengthening the

**relationship between their countries and our state,” said Representative Blanc (D-26).
“When we can reach across borders, across oceans and across cultures to foster better understanding it makes our state and our country stronger.”**

“Arizona companies are gaining exposure to new growth opportunities thanks to Rep. Tony Rivero and the State & International Committee, who is partnering with Global Chamber to bring key Ambassadors and other leaders from around the world to the state every few weeks for information sharing, relationship building and new business,” said Doug Bruhnke, founder/CEO of Global Chamber.

“This is an outstanding initiative to get foreign Ambassadors to the United States out of Washington so they see how vibrant, dynamic and beautiful Arizona really is, while giving Arizonans greater access and perspective on a wide range of international issues,” said Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership.

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